

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	Y. Kikuoka	CONF. NO.:	4208
U.S. SERIAL NO.:	10/622,273	EXAMINER:	D. Dicker
FILED:	July 17, 2003	GROUP:	2609
FOR:	IMAGE INFORMATION DISTRIBUTING METHOD, IMAGE INFORMATION DISTRIBUTING SYSTEM, CENTRAL APPARATUS, TERMINAL APPARATUS, SCANNER APPARATUS, AND COMPUTER MEMORY PRODUCT		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Sir:

AMENDMENT

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action dated April 30, 2007 of the above-referenced application. Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (original): An image information distributing method for receiving image information stored in a central apparatus by one or a plurality of terminal apparatus, comprising the steps of:
generating, by using said image information stored in said central apparatus, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information;
generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored and said summary image information;
generating a summary E-mail by attaching said generated summary document to an E-mail; and
transmitting said generated summary E-mail to said one or a plurality of terminal apparatus.

Claim 2 (original): The image information distributing method as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
determining whether character information is included in said image information or not;
and
in the case where character information is included in said image information, making said character information to be included in said summary document.

Claim 3 (original): The image information distributing method as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said terminal apparatus comprises displaying means, the summary image information and/or character information included in the received summary document is displayed on said displaying means.

Claim 4 (original): The image information distributing method as set forth in Claim 3, wherein

said terminal apparatus accepts input of a receiving instruction for requesting reception of image information corresponding to the received summary image information and/or character information, and, when said receiving instruction is inputted, in response to the summary image information and/or character information corresponding to the image information requested to be received, transmits to said central apparatus a transmitting instruction including the location information included in the received summary document, and

said central apparatus, when the transmitting instruction is received, transmits image information stored in a location indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction to the terminal apparatus which has transmitted the received transmitting instruction.

Claim 5 (original): An image information distributing system in which a scanner apparatus for generating image information by reading an image of an original and transmitting said image information, a central apparatus for receiving and storing the image information transmitted from said scanner apparatus, and one or a plurality of terminal apparatus for receiving the image information transmitted from said central apparatus are connected via communicating means,

wherein any of said scanner apparatus, said central apparatus and said terminal apparatus comprises:

summary document generating means having means for generating, by using said image information generated by said scanner apparatus, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information, and means for generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information generated by said scanner apparatus is stored and said summary image information; and

E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching said generated summary document to an E-mail, and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail to said terminal apparatus.

Claim 6 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said summary document generating means comprises:

means for determining whether character information is included in said image information or not; and

means, in the case where character information is included in said image information, for making said character information to be included in said summary document.

Claim 7 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 6, wherein said terminal apparatus comprises displaying means, and said summary document processing means is provided on said terminal apparatus and displays summary image information and/or character information included in the summary document onto said displaying means.

Claim 8 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said summary document processing means comprises: means for accepting input of a receiving instruction for requesting reception of image information corresponding to said summary image information and/or character information; and means for, when said receiving instruction is inputted, in response to the summary image information and/or character information corresponding to the image information requested to be received, transmitting to said central apparatus a transmitting instruction including the location information included in the received summary document, and

said central apparatus comprises means for, when the transmitting instruction is received, transmitting image information stored in a location indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction to the terminal apparatus which has transmitted the received transmitting instruction.

Claim 9 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said summary document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided on said central apparatus.

Claim 10 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said summary document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided on said scanner apparatus.

Claim 11 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein
said scanner apparatus comprises means for transmitting said image information to a predetermined terminal apparatus,
said summary document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided on said predetermined terminal apparatus, and
said predetermined terminal apparatus further comprises means for receiving the image information transmitted from said scanner apparatus.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A central apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, and storing means for storing image information received via said means, comprising:

means for, when a transmitting instruction including location information is received, transmitting the image information stored in a location in said storing means indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction;

summary document generating means having means for, by using received image information, generating summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information, and means for generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in said storing means in which said image information is stored and the generated summary image information; and

E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail, and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (original): A terminal apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, comprising:

means for receiving image information;

summary document generating means having means for, by using the received image information, generating summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information, and means for generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored and said summary image information; and

E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail, and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

Claims 15-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (original): A scanner apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, generating image information by reading an image of an original, transmitting the image information via said means, comprising:

summary document generating means having means for, by using said image information, generating summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information, and means for generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in said storing means in which said image information is to be stored and said summary image information; and

E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail, and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

Claim 18 (original): An image information distributing system in which a scanner apparatus for generating image information by reading an image of an original and transmitting said image information, a central apparatus for receiving and storing the image information transmitted from

said scanner apparatus, and one or a plurality of terminal apparatus for receiving the image information transmitted from said central apparatus are connected via communicating means,

wherein said scanner apparatus, said central apparatus and said terminal apparatus comprises processors, and any of the processors is capable of performing operations of:

generating, by using image information generated by said scanner apparatus, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information;

generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information generated by said scanner apparatus is stored and said summary image information;

generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail; and

transmitting the generated summary E-mail to said terminal apparatus.

Claim 19 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 18, wherein said operation of generating summary document further includes operations of:

determining whether character information is included in said image information or not;
and

in the case where character information is included in said image information, making said character information to be included in said summary document.

Claim 20 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 19, wherein said terminal apparatus comprises displaying means,

said operation of generating summary document is performed by said processor provided on said terminal apparatus, and

said processor is further capable of performing operation of displaying summary image information and/or character information included in the summary document onto said displaying means.

Claim 21 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 20, wherein

said operation of generating summary document performed by said processor provided on said terminal apparatus further includes operations of:

accepting input of a receiving instruction for requesting reception of image information corresponding to said summary image information and/or said character information; and

when said receiving instruction is inputted, in response to the summary image information and/or character information corresponding to the image information requested to be received, transmitting to said central apparatus a transmitting instruction including the location information included in the received summary document, and

said processor provided on said central apparatus is capable of performing operation of, when the transmitting instruction is received, transmitting image information stored in a location indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction to the terminal apparatus which has transmitted the received transmitting instruction.

Claim 22 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 21, wherein said operation of generating summary document and operation of generating and transmitting summary E-mail are performed by said processor provided on said central apparatus.

Claim 23 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 21, wherein said operation of generating summary document and operation of generating and transmitting summary E-mail are performed by said processor provided on said scanner apparatus.

Claim 24 (original): The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 21, wherein said processor provided on said scanner apparatus is capable of performing operation of transmitting said image information to a predetermined terminal apparatus,

said operation of generating summary document and operation of generating and transmitting summary E-mail are performed by said processor provided on said predetermined terminal apparatus, and

said processor provided on said predetermined terminal apparatus is further capable of performing operation of receiving the image information transmitted from said scanner apparatus.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A central apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, and storing means for storing image information received via said means, comprising a processor capable of performing operations of[[.]]:

when a transmitting instruction including location information is received, transmitting image information stored in a location in said storing means indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction;

generating, by using received image information, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image;

generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in said storing means in which said image information is stored and the generated summary image information;

generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail; and

transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (original): A terminal apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, comprising a processor capable of performing operations of: receiving image information;

generating, by using received image information, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information;

generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in said storing means in which said image information is stored and said summary image information;

generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail; and

transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

Claim 28 (currently amended): ~~A~~The terminal apparatus ~~as set forth in Claim 17~~, having displaying means, comprising a processor capable of performing operation of displaying onto said displaying means summary image information and/or character information included in a summary document which includes summary image information and/or character information and location information corresponding to image information.

Claim 29 (original): The terminal apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, further comprising means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, wherein said operation further includes operations of:

- accepting input of a receiving instruction for requesting reception of image information;
- and

- when said receiving instruction is inputted, transmitting a transmitting instruction including the location information corresponding to image information requested to be received.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A scanner apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, generating image information by reading an image of an original, transmitting the image information via said means, comprising a processor capable of performing operations of:

- generating, by using said image information, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information;

- generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored and said summary image information;

- generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail[[:]]; and

- transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (currently amended): A ~~computer memory product in which a computer program embodied in a computer-readable medium~~ for causing a computer to transmit/receive information is recorded, said computer comprising means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, said computer program comprising the steps for:

- causing the computer to receive image information;

- causing the computer to generate, by using the received image information, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information;

- causing the computer to generate a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored and said summary image information;

- causing the computer to generate a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail; and

- causing the computer to transmit the generated summary E-mail.

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (new): The terminal apparatus as set forth in Claim 19, having displaying means, comprising summary document processing means for displaying onto said displaying means said summary image information and/or character information included in a summary document which includes summary image information and/or character information and location information corresponding to image information.

Claim 35 (new): The terminal apparatus as set forth in Claim 34, further comprising means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication,

- wherein said summary document processing means comprises: means for accepting input of a receiving instruction for requesting reception of image information; and means for, when said receiving instruction is inputted, transmitting a transmitting instruction including the location information corresponding to the image information requested to be received.

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 2-4 and 19-24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-12, 14, 17-25, 27-30, 32, 34, and 35 are pending in the application. Independent claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13, which is canceled without prejudice. Independent claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 26, which is canceled without prejudice. Claim 28 has been rewritten in dependent form to depend from claim 17. Claim 30 has been amended to correct a punctuation error. Claim 32 has been amended to recite a computer program "embodied in a computer-readable medium," in order to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Claims 34 and 35 correspond to original claims 15 and 16 (now canceled), respectively, where claim 34 depends from claim 19. Claims 31 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice. The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed.

Claims 6-11 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Regarding claim 6, on page 2 of the Office Action of 04/30/2007, it was stated: "The means for determining whether character information is included in an image so it could be included with generated summary information is not explained in the Specification."

However, as described on page 52, lines 8-25 of the specification, a control unit 300 determines whether character information is included in received image information by determining whether a keyboard extracting instruction has been inputted in step S313 (see page 52, lines 8-11; and FIG. 15 of the application). If the control unit 300 determines that character information is included, it performs character recognition, generates character information, and extracts a keyword from the generated character information (see page 52, lines 17-22). Then,

the control unit 300 generates a summary document including the summary image information and the extracted keyword (see page 52, lines 22-25).

Regarding claim 7, on page 2 of the Office Action of 04/30/2007, it was alleged that the "summary document processing means" is not described in the specification.

However, as described on page 30, lines 8-13 of the specification, a summary document viewer 320 of a display unit 302 displays summary image information. As described on page 48, line 22 to page 49, line 2, the display unit 302 displays "the one or plurality of summary image information and/or the keyword of the summary image information included in the received summary document."

Regarding claims 9-11, on page 3, lines 1-2 of the Office Action of 04/30/2007, it was alleged that the "summary document generating means and the E-Mail processing means are not explained in the Specification."

However, regarding claim 9, which requires a "summary document generating means" and an email processing means to be provided on a central apparatus, it is stated on page 23, line 2 that a server 20 corresponds to a "central apparatus." As described, e.g., on page 26, lines 1-10, a control unit 200 of the server 20 "generates a summary image information" according to a "summary document generating procedure." As described on page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 4, an email processing procedure is carried out by the control unit 200.

Regarding claims 10 and 11, which describe the summary document generating means and the email processing means as being provided on a scanner apparatus and a terminal apparatus, respectively, page 41, lines 3-13 of the specification describes the summary document generating means and the email processing means as being provided on a scanner; and page 47, lines 18 to page 48, line 21 describes the summary document generating means and the email processing means as being provided on a terminal apparatus.

Regarding claims 14 and 17, it is believed that the rejections of these claims have been overcome in view of the explanations provided above.

Regarding claim 32, it is believed that the amendment to claim 32 overcomes the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. In particular, claim 32 has been amended to recite a computer program "embodied in a computer-readable medium," the computer program including the steps recited in claim 32. It is believed that claim 32, as amended, is clearly described and enabled by the Applicant's specification.

Claims 1, 5, 12-18, and 25-30 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication 2000-349952 (hereinafter "the '952 publication"). Claims 31-33 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '952 publication. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1 over the '952 publication, the '952 publication does not teach or suggest a method in which a summary document includes location information specifying a location where image information is stored and summary image information, the summary document being attached to an email transmitted to one or more terminal apparatus *as claimed*.

The '952 publication is described in detail in the "Background of the Invention" section of the application (see specification at page 2, line 4 to page 4, line 7).

As described in the Applicant's specification, the '952 publication is directed to an image input/output apparatus which inputs image information from a scanner apparatus and stores the inputted image information in a storage device (see page 2, lines 4-8). The image input/output apparatus generates a hyper text, and also generates an email in which location information of the hyper text is transmitted to a terminal apparatus (see page 2, lines 8-12).

On page 5, paragraph #8 of the Office Action of 04/30/2007, paragraph 0016 of the '952 publication was cited for allegedly teaching "summary image information which has been scaled and indicates its location information [0016] then later explaining how the summary information can be sent through a communication means by E-Mail."

As stated in paragraph 0016 of the computer translation supplied by the Examiner, the image input/output apparatus includes a "notice means to notify the storing address and outline storing information on the hypertext created to a designated user's personal computer or workstation connected to the network."

In other words, as described in the Applicant's specification and confirmed in the computer translation of the '952 publication, an email sent to the user's personal computer merely specifies a location of the hyper text. The user must then access the hyper text to obtain summary information of the received image information (see, e.g., Applicant's specification at page 2, lines 21-25). Therefore, according to the '952 publication, "the contents of the image information cannot be known only from the location information" (see Applicant's specification at page 3, lines 20-25). Consequently, an additional step of accessing the hyper text is required in the '952 publication, as compared to the Applicant's claimed invention.

Further, as stated in paragraph 0038 of the '952 publication, "the address and outline storing information on a hypertext for access (resolution, pagination, etc.) which were created are changed into mail data." In other words, in the '952 publication, the outline storing information does not contain reduced image data or summary image information itself, but instead must be converted into mail data.

The '952 publication does not teach or suggest that an email transmitted to one or more terminal apparatus includes both location information and summary image information *as claimed*. Instead, in the '952 publication, the email sent to the user's personal computer contains only location information of a hyper text (not the image information itself), and the user must separately access the hyper text to obtain the image information.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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